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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 L-03 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02

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---------- 118352
O R 131641Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6782
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6237

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE PROTESTS US "BLACKMAIL ON RADIO LIBERTY"

1. ARRIBA'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT FELIX ORTEGA IS AT IT AGAIN, THIS TIME ACCUSING SENATOR NUNN, AND BY IMPLICATION THE USG OF ATTEMPTING TO "BLACKMAIL" THE GOS BY RAISING THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF TREATY RELATED FUNDING DEPENDS ON SPANISH AGREEMENT TO A LONG TERM EXTESNION OF THE THE RADIO LIBERTY (RL)LEASE.

2. ACCORDING TO ORTEGA SENATOR NUNN STATED ON THE SENATE FLOOR, INTER ALIA, THAT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A LONG TERM EXTENSION OF THE RL CONTRACT WILL MAKE IT EASER FOR... BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS... TO SUPPORT THE VOTING OF FUNDS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE TERMS OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION..." AND "IT WOULD BE STRANGE THAT ONE PART OF THE TREATY WOULD ANNUL OR REDUCE ACCORDS WHICH HAD WORKED SO WELL FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. I REFER PARTICULATLY TO THE RL AGREEMENT."

3. ORTEGA PROTESTS THAT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TREATY AND THE RL AGREEMENT MADE BY NUNN IS MENTIONED NOWHERE IN THE TREARY AND THAT IT VIOLATES THE
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PREVIOUS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE DEPT AND MINISTRY

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OF FOREIGN AFFIARS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TWO ARE
SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT MATTERS. AS WELL AS EXPLANTATIONS
GIVEN TO HIM PERSONALLY BY OFFICIAL USG SOURCES. HE
CHARACTERIZES THE NUNN STATE MENTS AS "BLACKMAIL", AND AS
"INTILERABLE AND UNJUSTIFIABLE PRESSURE ON A SOVEREIGN
STATE. PARTICULARLY INADMISSABLE CONSIDERING THE
CURRENT FRAGILE TRANSITION PERIOD THROUGH WHICH SPAIN IS
PASSING".

4. COMMENT: BOTH THE FOREIGN AND INFORMATION MINISTERS ARE
FAMILAR WITH PREVIOUS STATEMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS CONCERNING RL WE HAVE PROVIDED THEM WITH THE
TEXTS. AND THEY ARE SUFFICENTLY SPOHISTICATED TO KNOW
THAT SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN TEND TO SPEAK THEIR MINDS.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST STATEMENT WE HAVE SEEN TRYING THE
RL ISSUE SPECIFICALLY TO TREATY FUNDING SOMETHING WHICH COULD
BECOME SENSITIVE HERE IF IT WERE TO SNOWBALL AND WOULD
NOT BE HELPGUL TO OUR OBJECTIVES VIS A VIS RL.
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